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AFTERWORD

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BUYING "NEKOMATA" ON THIS OCCASION.
I AM KUKU HAYATE. I'M PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE HENCEFORTH!

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME BEING PUBLISHED IN A SEINEN MAGAZINE, AND WHILE I WAS THINKING OF WHAT A GOOD THEME WOULD BE, I SETTLED ON USING "CATS" AS THEY'RE SOMETHING VERY NEAR AND DEAR TO ME.

AND ALSO, "HOUSES" TO HUMANS... NO, TO MANY LIVING THINGS, THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT AND PRECIOUS NESTS THAT PROTECT THEM. BUT WHAT IF THAT HOUSE COULD EXPRESS ITS EMOTIONS, EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT? AND THUS, "NEKOMATA" WAS BORN FROM FEELINGS LIKE THAT SINCE IN JAPANESE, WE ALREADY SAY THAT CATS "POSSESS" HOUSES.

WE CAN'T HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HOUSES, BUT JUST BY HAVING THEIR EAVES THERE, WE CAN SOMEHOW BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF AND REST EASY. CERTAINLY, NEKOMATA SERVE NO REAL PURPOSE. THEY ONLY WATCH OVER PEOPLE'S LIVES FROM THE EAVES. HOWEVER, THEY ARE ALWAYS WISHING FOR THE HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF THE OCCUPANTS LIVING UNDER THEIR EAVES. WHEN THE OCCUPANTS ARE TROUBLED, THE NEKOMATA'S HEARTS ALSO HURT. CERTAINLY, WE WOULD NEVER KNOW. BUT THAT IS THEIR REASON FOR EXISTING. "HOUSES CAN'T SPEAK, BUT AREN'T THEY STILL AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY...?" "NEKOMATA" WAS THE RESULT WHEN GIVING ALL OF THAT PHYSICAL FORM.

AFTER THIS, THE NEKOMATA AND JINBÉ'S LIVES WILL STILL CONTINUE ON.
I WOULD BE HAPPY IF YOU ENJOYED SEEING THE NEKOMATA THROUGH JINBÉ'S EYES, THE EYES OF SOMEONE WHO CAN SEE THEM.

IF YOU CAN, PLEASE, BY ALL MEANS...

"I WONDER IF MY HOUSE HAS THEM TOO."

...TRY THINKING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WELL THEN, I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME!!!

RESPECTFULLY YOURS, KUKU HAYATE

Special thanks

週刊漫画Times編集部の皆さん・担当S様
お手伝いの友人S&さん
All readers!!

T/N NOTE: IN JAPANESE, "NOBERU" CAN MEAN "TO RIDE"/"TO SIT ON" BUT IT CAN ALSO MEAN "TO CONTROL/POSSESS"/"TO MAKE (SOMETHING) MOVE," WHICH IS THE BASIS OF THE PUN HERE.

MBC

AS A RESULT OF IT POSSESSING JINBE,
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT SHARES HIS EXACT EMOTIONS.
FOR A MOMENT, HE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW GLAD HE WAS THAT OTHER PEOPLE COULDN'T SEE THE NEKOMATA.
MY EMOTIONS ARE BEING LEAKED, AREN'T THEY...?

NEKOMATA ① END